

## FIRST READING

Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful on the mountains, / are the feet of one who brings good news, / who heralds peace, brings happiness, / proclaims salvation, / and tells Zion, / 'Your God is king!' / Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, / they shout for joy together, / for they see the Lord face to face, / as he returns to Zion. / Break into shouts of joy together, / you ruins of Jerusalem; / for the Lord is consoling his people, / redeeming Jerusalem. / The Lord bares his holy arm / in the sight of all the nations, / and all the ends of the earth shall see / the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97: 1-6. R. v. 3

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn/acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

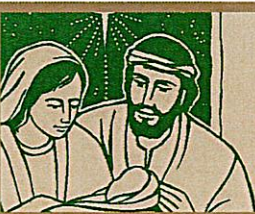
At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia!



**TODAY IS BORN  
OUR SAVIOUR,  
CHRIST THE LORD!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

MASS DURING THE NIGHT / DAY MASS

25 DECEMBER 2025

## MASS DURING THE NIGHT

## FIRST READING

Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2: 11

**R.** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

## SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2: 10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world: / today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 2: 1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



*Welcome to St Nicholas'  
Catholic Parish  
Tamworth  
for  
Nativity of the Lord  
Mass during the Day  
Year A*

25<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest**  
**Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest**  
[stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au) ☎ (02) 6766 2228

Parish Website: <https://www.stnicholasparish.org.au/>

Parish Secretaries: Finance: Stephanie Hetherington - Mon/Tue 9-5pm  
Admin: Anne Jones Wed/Fri 9-5pm Pauline Skewes Thurs 9-1pm  
**Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm**

**Catholic schools in our parish**

McCarthy Catholic College	Principal: Mr Michael Whitton
☎ (02) 6761 0800	Students currently enrolled: 945
St Nicholas Primary School	Principal: Mr Peter Flynn
☎ (02) 6766 1500	Students currently enrolled: 590

**ENTRANCE:** A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**‘THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US.’** In Jesus, the Son of God did not simply become like a human being, or take only the visible form of a human being. God became a human being and pitched his tent among us. Christ, true God and true man, continues to dwell among us in his word and sacrament, and in all who make up his body.

**Psalter Week 4**

**Thursday 25/12 Christmas Day**  
**St Mary's 7.30am and St Nicholas' 9.30am**  
Is 52:7-10 Ps 97:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18  
**Friday 26/12 St Nicholas' Mass 9am Boxing Day**  
**St Stephen, the first martyr**  
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Ps 30:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17 Mt 10:17-22  
**Saturday 27/12 St Nicholas' Mass 9am**  
**St John, apostle, evangelist**  
1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:2-8

**Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 28/12 St Nicholas' 9.30am & 5.30pm**  
**St Mary's 7.30am Mass**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4pm – 5.30pm**

**BAPTISMS** are held Saturdays at 11am & Sundays at 12 noon. If you wish to book a Baptism, please email or telephone the Parish Office on 67662228 for more information. Forms can also be submitted on our parish website.

**Parish toilet** is located in the Outdoor Function Area. Please ensure children are accompanied by an adult when leaving the Church during Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.

**Parish Bulletin Deadline:** Midday Wednesday – The Bulletin is printed on Thursday morning.

**PRAYERFUL REFLECTION** on the readings is always included on this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

**A warm welcome to all new parishioners!** To help you feel at home in our parish, we encourage you to introduce yourself to Father after Mass, or you might also consider exploring opportunities to get involved in parish life through various ministries and activities. If so, please see our Parish Notice Board or contact the Parish Office.

**If you wish your name to be added to, or deleted from, any of the parish rosters for 2026, please contact the parish office no later than Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you!**

**PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead**

25 Dec Thu	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
26 Dec Fri	<b>BOXING DAY</b>	
26 Dec Fri	<b>FAMILY Eucharistic Adoration</b> 6-7pm	St Nicholas'
	Followed by a light supper in the Parish Meeting Room	
28 Dec Sun	<b>The Holy Family</b>	
31 Dec Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
31 Dec Wed	<b>New Year's Eve</b>	
01 Jan Thu	<b>New Year's Day</b>	
01 Jan Thu	<b>Mary, the Mother of God</b>	
04 Jan Sun	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	
06 Jan Tues	Petitions Rosary	12.15pm St Nicholas'
07 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
11 Jan Sun	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	
14 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'
18 Jan Sun	Birthday blessing	All Masses
21 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am St Nicholas'



**Accessible seating area:** Fr Chris has approved for a space to be designated for accessible seating within St Nicholas' Church, to accommodate the needs of parishioners with mobility difficulties, including the elderly and those using wheelchairs. This will involve moving two pews to the rear transepts of the church to provide the necessary space. The new accessible seating area will be available early in the new year. Please speak with Fr Chris if you have any questions about the accessible seating area.

**PLANNED GIVING: SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Collection (supports the clergy)**  
BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 023 584  
A/C Name: St Nicholas Presbytery  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Planned Giving for Parish maintenance)**  
BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 003 255  
A/C Name: St Nicholas Parish  
Ref: Planned Giving Number/or your name. Thank you for your support.

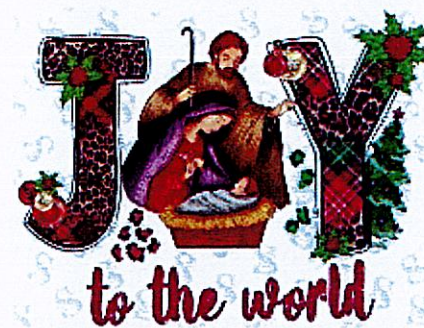
**2026 Columban Art Calendars** are available for sale at the entrance to the church for **\$10 per calendar**.

**Call for Nominations: Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council plays a vital role in our parish, serving as a consultative body to the Parish Priest to help guide the spiritual life and future direction of our parish community. We are now calling for nominations for members to serve on the Council for an upcoming term.

Parishioners are invited to nominate a fellow parishioner or even yourself for consideration to the PPC. Forms to facilitate this, along with copies of the PPC Constitution, are available at the entrance to the church. The PPC must be a diverse team representing many different activities in the parish. Please give prayerful consideration as you reflect on this important duty.

Please return the form to Fr Chris, or email him on or before Sunday 18 January, 2026. Thankyou!



***Christmas Masses 2025***

Christmas Eve: 6pm Family Mass at St Nicholas'  
12am Midnight Mass at St Nicholas'  
Christmas Day: 7.30am Mass at St Mary's  
9.30am Mass at St Nicholas'  
~No evening Mass in our parish on Christmas Day~

**CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025**

**7.30am - Christmas Day St Mary's Church**

Commentator: **Matt Pawsey**  
G/Reader 1: **Sue O'Halloran** G/Reader 2: **Bernadette Virgen**  
Offertory: **Cheryl Higgins** Ex Min: **Deb Pawsey**  
Altar Servers:  
Music: **Grant Quinn** Collection **Bill Higgins**

**9.30am - Christmas Day St Nicholas' Church**

Commentator: **Alison Hamilton**  
G/Reader 1: **Helen Rowsell** G/Reader 2: **Brian Lincoln**  
Offertory: **Bourke Family** Ex Min: **Maria Lincoln**  
Altar Servers: Slides:  
Music: **St Nicholas' Choir** Collection: **Dan/Vicki Daly**

**\* CHRISTMAS OFFERING \***

is our collective Christmas gift to our priests. It is deposited in the 'Presbytery' Account & used for the upkeep of the Priests – their food sustenance plus the salary of the Presbytery housekeeper. The annual excess from this account is used to support the retired and sick clergy of our Diocese. Envelopes are available at the back of the church & on the pews. Your generosity will be most appreciated – Thank you!

**School-Age Baptism** is being offered for children in Kinder to Year 6 who have not yet been baptised.  
**Parent Information Session: Wednesday 18 March 2026** at 5.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

**School-Age Baptisms: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026** at 10am at St Nicholas' Church.

Forms are currently available at the entrance of St Nicholas' and St Mary's churches.



**WEEKLY ROSTER – 27/28 December 2025**

**St Nicholas' Saturday 6pm The Holy Family**  
C: Cate Allen G/R1: Leonie Hanson  
G/R2: Eil Smyth  
Ex Min: Paul McDougall Music: Noel Greacen  
Collection: David Raffaele/Bill Campbell/Morgan Hawthorne  
**St Mary's Sunday 7.30am**  
C: Judy Scott G/R1: John Wallace G/R2: Bruce Stewart  
Ex Min: Kevin McMahon Music: Grant Quinn  
Altar Servers: Will Nguyen  
Collection: Carl Cavallaro/Bill Higgins

**St Nicholas' Sunday 9.30am**  
C: Maria Lincoln G/R1: Nicholas Nweke G/R2: Ben Lamey  
Ex Min: Anne Bowden  
Altar Servers: Ryan Pham/Dominic Vinod  
Music: St Nicholas Choir  
Collection: Maria Gruer/Josie Cox/Phil Elliott

**St Nicholas' Sunday 5.30pm**  
C: Judy Campbell G/R1: Cecilia Dries R2: Merrilyn Gaffney  
Ex Min: Tania Roberts Music: Recorded Music  
Altar Servers: Callum/Emmett Buckman  
Collection: Volunteers

Counting Team: Brian & Maria Lincoln  
Altar Linen: Lynne Prisk  
Sacristy Cleaning: Beth & John Ryan/Bruce Stewart  
Candelabrum: John Wallace 28/12/25 – 03/01/26  
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**CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS:** We pray for the soul of **Shane Coote**. May he rest in God's peace.

**PERPETUAL INTENTIONS:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Alec & Betty Fyffe**, and **Cyril & Grace Cahill**, who will be long remembered in our Parish.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AT THIS TIME:**

Dan Daly, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Rev. Fr Tony Castelli, Kath Donoghue, Colin Bryant, Darren Graham, Suzanne Perfrement, Kay Tucker, Ken Michell, Julie Michell, Judy Murphy, Steve Tierney, Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell, Kay Mason, Doreen Eunson, Maureen White (Orange), Cormac Downes (Uralla), Michael Bryant, Sullivan Hum (Singleton), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Bill Dennis, Maddy Anderson (Sydney), Sherree Haylock and Russell Smith.



“You must look at the Child in  
the manger. He is our Love.”  
**St. Josemaria Escriva**

*May God's Blessings  
be with you  
and your family  
at Christmas and always!*

